

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A high-strength bolt having a tensile strength of 1,200 N/mm² or more that is superior in delayed fracture resistance and relaxation resistance, wherein the bolt is prepared by: wire-drawing a bolt steel containing the following elements: C: 0.5 to 1.0% (mass %, the same shall apply hereinafter), Si: ~~[[0.55]]~~ 0.70 to 3%, Mn: 0.2 to 2%, P: 0.03% or less (but not 0%), S: 0.03% or less (but not 0%), Al: 0.3% or less (but not 0%), and Cr: 0.51 to 2.5%, and containing proeutectoid ferrite, proeutectoid cementite, bainite and martensite at a total areal rate of less than 20% and pearlite in balance; cold-heading the wire into a bolt shape; and then subjecting the bolt comprising ~~[[0.55]]~~ 0.70 % to 3% Si to a bluing treatment in a temperature range of 100 to 500°C to form a solid solution of Si in the ferrite.

2. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Co in an amount of 0.5% or less (but not 0%).

3. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Ni at 1.0% or less (but not 0%).

4. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Cu at 1.0% or less (but not 0%).

5. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel further comprises at least one element selected from Mo, V, Nb, Ti, and W in a total amount of 0.5% or less (but not 0%).

6. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel further comprises B at 0.003% or less (but not 0%).

7. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 2, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Ni at 1.0% or less (but not 0%).

8. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 2, wherein the bolt steel further comprises at least one element selected from Mo, V, Nb, Ti, and W in a total amount of 0.5% or less (but not 0%).

9. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 2, wherein the bolt steel further comprises B at 0.003% or less (but not 0%).

10. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 7, wherein the bolt steel further comprises at least one element selected from Mo, V, Nb, Ti, and W in a total amount of 0.5% or less (but not 0%).

11. (Original): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the elements in balance are Fe and inevitable impurities.

12. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the bolt steel comprises Si in an amount of 1% to 3%.

13. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature for the bluing treatment ranges from 200°C to 500°C.

14. (Currently Amended): The high-strength bolt according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the bolt steel comprises Cr in an amount of 0.51% to 1.2%.

15. (Currently Amended): A high-strength bolt having a tensile strength of at least 1,200 N/mm², wherein the bolt is prepared by wire-drawing a bolt steel comprising: C: 0.5 to

1.0% by mass, Si: $[[0.55]]$ 0.70 to 3% by mass, Mn: 0.2 to 2% by mass, P: 0.03% or less by mass, S: 0.03% or less by mass, Al: 0.3% or less by mass, and Cr: 0.51 to 2.5% by mass, containing proeutectoid ferrite, proeutectoid cementite, bainite and martensite at a total areal rate of less than 20% and pearlite in balance; cold-heading the wire into a bolt shape; and then subjecting the bolt to a bluing treatment in a temperature range of 100 to 500°C to form a solid solution of Si in the ferrite.

16. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 15, wherein the bolt steel further comprises 0.5% or less by mass of Co.

17. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 15, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Ni at 1.0% or less by mass.

18. (Previously Presented): The high-strength bolt according to Claim 15, wherein the bolt steel further comprises Cu at 1.0% or less by mass.